

In The Claims

Please amend Claims 1 and 15-21 as follows (the changes in these Claims are shown with ~~strike through~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter, [[double brackets]] are for deleted matter less than five (5) characters). A complete listing of the claims is set out below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Currently Amended) A decorative cap and wheel fastener assembly for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

- a) a fastener insert body having threads formed thereon encircling the axis of said body;
- b) said body including one section having an external surface with a polygonal cross-section encircling said axis;
- c) said body including another section having an external surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section encircling said axis; and
- d) a cap including one wall segment having an internal surface with a polygonal cross-section;
- e) said cap further including another wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section, said wall segment being formed of radially deformable sheet material;
- f) ~~said insert body and said cap being assembled by being press fit onto said insert body, together,~~ the external dimensions of said circular cylindrical cross-section surface on said body being greater than the internal dimensions of said circular cylindrical cross-section surface in said cap prior to ~~assembly being press fit on to said insert body~~ whereby said other wall segment is deformed radially outwardly to form an interference fit between said other wall segment and said other body section ~~when said insert body and said cap are assembled.~~ said deformation being partially unelastic and partially elastic, said wall segment, after deformation, exerting an elastic force on said circular cylindrical cross-section surface on said body sufficient to retain said cap securely on said body.

2. (Original) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

- a) said external surfaces are coated;
- b) said coating is approximately 0.001 inches thick.

3. (Previously Presented) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

- a) the diameter of said internal cylindrical surface in said cap is 0.010 to 0.030 less than the diameter of said external cylindrical surface on said insert prior to assembly of said cap and wheel fastener and said cap is formed of elastically deformable sheet material.

4. (Original) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 2 further characterized in that:

- a) said coating is chromium free.

5. (Previously Presented) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

- a) said deformation establishing an interference fit is between 0.002 and 0.006 inches around the said external and internal circular cylindrical surfaces.

6. (Previously Presented) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

- a) said internal polygonal surface is seated over said external polygonal surface on said insert in a non-interference fit relationship.

7. (Original) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

- a) said insert body includes another section having an external surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section, said other body section being separate from said one body section; and
- b) said cap includes another wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section;
- c) an interference fit also being established between said other external and internal circular cylindrical surfaces.

8. (Original) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

- a) said cap including a crimp segment; and
- b) said insert body including an undercut which is engaged by said crimp segment.

9. (Original) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

- a) said one circular cylindrical surface on said insert body has an outside diameter of about 0.930 inches.

10. (Original) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 1 further characterized in that:

- a) a shoulder is formed adjacent said one circular cylindrical surface on said insert;
- b) said cap having an annular edge which engages said shoulder.

Claims 11-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of a~~ A decorative cap and wheel fastener insert assembly for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

- a) a fastener insert body having threads formed thereon encircling the axis of said body;
- b) said body including one section having an external surface with a polygonal cross-section encircling said axis;
- c) said body further including another section having an external surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section encircling said axis; and
- d) a cap including one wall segment having an internal surface with a polygonal cross-section;
- e) said cap further including another wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section; and
- f) said cap being formed of elastically deformable sheet material metal and the cross-sectional dimensions of said internal cylindrical surface in said cap being less than the cross-sectional dimensions of said cylindrical surface on said body ~~whereby when the said cap being press fit onto said wheel fastener insert and the cap are assembled and~~ said one wall segment is being deformed radially outwardly of said axis for a distance of at least 0.002 inches.

16. (Currently Amended) The cap and fastener insert assembly of Claim 15 further characterized in that:

- a) said external surfaces are coated with another material to a thickness of approximately 0.001 inches.

17. (Currently Amended) The cap and fastener insert assembly of Claim 16 further characterized in that:

- a) said coating material is chromium free.

18. (Currently Amended) The cap and fastener insert assembly of Claim ~~15,~~ 16 ~~or 17~~ further characterized in that:

a) said radial deformation is between 0.002 and 0.006 inches around the said external and internal circular cylindrical cross-section surfaces.

19. (Currently Amended) The cap and fastener insert assembly of ~~Claims 1, 15, 16 or Claim~~ 17 further characterized in that:

a) said external and internal circular cylindrical cross-section surfaces are free of adhesive material.

20. (Currently Amended) The decorative cap and wheel fastener insert assembly of ~~Claims 1, 7 or Claim~~ 15 further characterized in that:

a) said cap is formed of stainless steel sheet which is plastically and elastically deformable;

b) both plastic and elastic deformation are present in ~~of~~ said wall segment ~~outwardly of said axis takes place when~~ said insert body and cap are assembled.

21. (Currently Amended) A decorative cap and wheel fastener insert combination for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a) a fastener insert body having threads formed thereon encircling the axis of said body;

b) said body including one section having an external surface with a polygonal cross-section encircling said axis;

c) said body further including a section having an external surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section encircling said axis; and

d) a cap including a wall segment having an internal surface with a polygonal cross-section;

e) the cross-sectional dimensions of said internal polygonal surface in said cap being at least as large as the cross-sectional dimensions of said external polygonal surface on said body;

f) said cap further including one wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section;

g) the cross-sectional dimensions of said internal cylindrical surface in said cap being less than the cross-sectional dimensions of said cylindrical surface of said body;

h) said insert body being ~~adapted to be~~ press fit into said cap whereby an interference fit is ~~will be~~ established between said one external and internal circular cylindrical surfaces.

22. (Previously Presented) The cap and fastener assembly of Claim 21 further characterized in that:

a) said cap is formed of elastically deformable sheet material.

b) the diameter of said internal cylindrical surface in said cap is 0.010 to 0.030 less than the diameter of said external cylindrical surface on said insert.